



Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet

Cornshuck Flowers Created by Darlene Hellard at Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

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BEREA, Ky. – On Saturday, March 28, Darlene Hellard, of McKee, will be creating cornshuck flowers from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.

A native of Jackson County, Hellard creates an array of colorful cornshuck flowers and cornshuck angel bookmarks and angel ornaments. Hellard's mother-in-law taught her to make a cornshuck wreath in 1981, and after her aunt learned to make cornshuck flowers by watching a program on Kentucky Educational Television, she showed Hellard how to make her first flowers.

Hellard used to search through her neighbors' corn cribs to gather corn shucks to bleach and dye for her flowers. Today she buys the materials commercially and uses fabric dyes to achieve her different colors. Her flowers are made by first tying a flower center onto a floral wire stem. Then each flower petal or bud is cut to pattern, shaped and tied individually before being assembled and tied again onto the stem. Hellard creates a wide variety of flowers in different sizes, and her small iris is especially realistic.

Hellard is a juried member of the Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen, the Southern Highland Craft Guild and the Kentucky Arts Council's Kentucky Craft Marketing Program.

Cornshuck flowers by Hellard are regularly available at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, located at 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate 75 at Berea, Exit 77. The center's exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily, year-round, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the cafe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea currently features works by more than 700 artisans from more than 100 counties across the Commonwealth. A special exhibit, "Turn, Turn, Turn: Lathe-Turned Works by Kentucky Artisans," is on display through Sept. 12, and in the lobby the exhibit, "Kentucky Murals by Frank W. Long" continues through April 18. For more information about events call 859-985-5448, go to the center's website at www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Photos: Darlene Hellard makes a variety of cornshuck flowers and items at the Artisan Center at Berea